

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

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TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJECT: MEXICAN EXTENSION OF COASTAL ECONOMIC ZONE TO
200-MILES

FOLLOWING EXCHANGE AT DEPARTMENT NOON PRESS BRIEFING.

Q: I HAVE GOT A QUESTION HERE, BOB. THE FIRST ONE IS,
HOW DOES THE EXTENSION OF THE FISHING LIMIT FROM MEXICO
AFFECT THE FISHING BOATS OFF TEXAS?

A: AT THE MOMENT, IT DOES NOT HAVE ANY EFFECT, BECAUSE
I THINK THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS IN MEXICO HAS NOT BEEN
COMPLETED YET.

NOW, I THINK OUR POSITION WITH REGARD TO THE QUESTION
OF THE 200-MILE LIMIT -- I ASSUME YOU KNOW OUR POSITION
ON THIS VERY, VERY WELL, AND WE FEEL THAT THE WAY TO
DEAL WITH THIS QUESTION AND OTHER QUESTIONS WITH REGARD
TO OCEANIC MATTERS, SHALL WE SAY -- DEEP SEA BEDS, AND
SO FORTH -- IS TO TRY AND ARRIVE AT MULTILATERAL AGREE-
MENT, WHICH WE CERTAINLY HOPE WILL BE TAKEN -- DECISIONS ON
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WHICH WE HOPE WILL BE TAKEN AT THE LAW OF THE SEA CON-

ERENCE. AND WE FEEL THAT UNILATERAL ACTIONS BY GOVERNMENTS ARE NOT HELPFUL IN ANY WAY WHATSOEVER.

Q: ANOTHER QUESTION WAS CONCERNING, NOW, PROBABLY BEFORE THE NEW YEAR, PROBABLY WITHIN THE NEXT MONTH, THE U.S. WILL HAVE THEIR 200-MILE LIMIT. WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO TELL SOVIET RUSSIA, BECAUSE THEY ARE FISHING RIGHT OFF YOUR COAST?

A: ON THIS, AS YOU ARE FULLY AWARE AND AS WE ALL ARE, THIS IS A MATTER BEFORE THE CONGRESS RIGHT NOW. WE HAVE BEEN AND WILL CONTINUE TO DISCUSS, PRESENT OUR VIEWS TO THE CONGRESS. WE DO NOT FAVOR, AS I SAID A MINUTE AGO UNILATERAL ACTION. AND WE WOULD HOPE THAT THE CONGRESS WOULD EVENTUALLY AGREE WITH OUR POSITION THAT THE BEST WAY TO PROTECT AMERICAN INTERESTS IN THIS WHOLE AREA IS BY MULTILATERAL NEGOTIATION AND THE CONCLUSION OF A MULTILATERAL TREATY, BECAUSE OUR INTERESTS JUST WILL NOT BE SERVED IF WE GO OFF ON A UNILATERAL ROUTE. THEN, AS I THINK YOU INDICATED, OR IMPLIED, IT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO PERSUADE OTHER COUNTRIES NOT TO GO OFF ON A UNILATERAL ROUTE.

SO I DO NOT WANT TO PREDICT WHAT THE OUTCOME WILL BE ON THE HILL.

Q: WHAT IS THE STATUS OF THE MULTILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS?

A: ON DEEP SEA BEDS, THERE HAS NOT BEEN AS MUCH PROGRESS AS WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE, BUT WE ARE IN INTENSIVE CONSULTATION WITH THE GOVERNMENTS PRIMARILY CONCERNED. THE NEXT ACTUAL MEETING OF THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE IS IN MARCH, AND I BELIEVE THE SECRETARY INDICATED UP IN MONTREAL, IF I AM NOT MISTAKEN, THAT THERE MIGHT VERY WELL BE TWO SESSIONS, TWO CONFERENCES, OR TWO SESSIONS OF THE SAME CONFERENCE, NEXT YEAR IN THE HOPE THAT WE CAN CONCLUDE A COMPREHENSIVE LAW OF THE SEA IN 1976. THIS IS THE ROUTE THAT WE ARE GOING DOWN.

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Q: WHERE IS THE MEETING GOING TO BE?

A: IN NEW YORK IN MARCH

Q: BOB, WILL THE SECRETARY RECOMMEND THAT THE PRESIDENT VETO ANY EXTENSION BY CONGRESS OF THE 200-MILE FISHING LIMIT?

A: I DO NOT KNOW. AT THIS POINT, WE ARE HAVING, I
THINK, VERY USEFUL CONSULTATIONS -- CARL MAW AND OTHERS
-- ON THE HILL WITH INTERESTED COMMITTEES. I AM NOT
SURE THAT THIS QUESTION HAS BEEN DIRECTLY ADDRESSED YET,
SO I CANNOT PREDICT. KISSINGER

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